centre. The estimated average annual expenditure of this training centre is to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore. The National Horticulture Board has not received any proposal/request from the Government of Maharashtra for grant of assistance towards meeting annual expenditure of Rs. 1.00 crore, for HTC, Pune.

Release mechanism for sugar

*99. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS,.FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to do away with the release mechanism for sugar;

(b) whether Government have studied the repercussions of this porposal which would lead to a rise in hoarding activities and an unprecedented rise in the sugar prices; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to save the common people from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government has not so far taken a decision to do away with the release mechanism for freesale sugar. Ail aspects including availability of sugar at reasonable prices to the consumers shall be considered while taking decision at appropriate time on release mechanism for freesale sugar.

Procurement of foodgrains

*100. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of foodgrains had been affected due to private trade during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to import foodgrains to meet the demand during this year; and